

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The above amendment presents a new set of claims wherein claim 11 is the new main claim. It essentially corresponds to the two step process of original claim 6 wherein chloro-compounds are produced.

New claims 12 to 14 depend on claim 11 and are based on previous claims 2 to 4, respectively.

New claim 15 depends on claim 11 and is based on previous claims 7 and 8.

New claim 16 depends on claim 11 and is based on previous claim 9.

New claim 17 depends on claim 16 and is based on previous claim 10.

The two step variant now recited in claim 16 and claims dependent thereon is supported by the Examples.

In Example 1 the offgas from the chlorination is introduced in an ethanol/water mixture, whereupon 3950g 24% ethanolic hydrochloric acid is yielded. This ethanolic hydrochloric acid is used in Examples 2 and 3, which correspond to step 2 of the claimed process. Also according to Example 4, the offgas is used in the next step (Examples 5, 6, and 7).

The above amendment is responsive to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 on the ground of indefiniteness.

Claims 1-4, 7 and 9-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Covers et al. (EP 0075356).

Further, claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covers et al. (EP 0075356) in view of Castelijns et al. (EP 0518412).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The two step integrated process as presently recited wherein HCl from the first stage is employed in the second stage, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited Covers and Castelijns references or any combination thereof.

Accordingly, rejections on prior art are untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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